

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A microswitch comprising:

- a deformable membrane comprising at least two flexure arms and at least one contact arm arranged between the two flexure arms, the arms being substantially parallel to each other in a first stable position, the membrane being physically attached to a substrate by means of the flexure arms by at least one of the ends of each flexure arm,

- the flexure arms comprising actuating means designed to deform the flexure arms, from the first stable position of the microswitch to a second stable position in such a way as to establish in the second stable position an electric contact between at least a first conducting pad formed on the substrate and at least a second conducting pad formed on a bottom surface of the membrane, in a second stable position,

- the contact arm being attached to each flexure arms in high deformation areas of said flexure arms, the contact arm remaining substantially parallel to the substrate and deforming less than the flexure arms upon actuation of the microswitch,

- and complementary electrostatic holding means respectively fixedly secured to the membrane and to the substrate and designed to hold the microswitch in the second stable position of the membrane.

attached to a substrate,

actuating means designed to deform the membrane, from a first stable position of the microswitch, in such a way as to establish an electric contact between at least a first conducting pad formed on the substrate and at least a second conducting pad formed on a bottom surface of the membrane, in a second stable position,

and electrostatic holding means designed to hold the microswitch in the second stable position and comprising complementary electrostatic holding means respectively fixedly secured to the membrane and to the substrate;

microswitch characterized in that the membrane comprises at least:

two substantially parallel flexure arms attached to the substrate via at least one of the ends thereof and comprising the actuating means,

and at least one contact arm, substantially parallel to the flexure arms, arranged between the flexure arms and attached to the flexure arms in the high deformation areas of the flexure arms, the contact arm moving in a direction substantially parallel to the substrate on actuation of the microswitch, and comprising the electrostatic holding means of the membrane and the second conducting pad.

2. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the contact arm supporting the electrostatic holding means is elongate.

3. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the two ends of the flexure arms are fixedly secured to the substrate, the contact arm being attached, via the a central part thereof, to the flexure arms at the level of their respective central parts.

4. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein each flexure arm comprises a first end fixedly secured to the substrate and a second end fixedly secured to the contact arm, the second ends of two adjacent flexure arms being respectively fixedly secured to opposite ends of the corresponding contact arm.

5. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the actuating means of the microswitch comprise a thermal actuator.

6. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 5, wherein the thermal actuator comprises a heating resistor inserted in at least one end of the flexure arms.

7. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the actuating means of the microswitch comprise a piezoelectric actuator.

8. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the flexure arms are bimetal strips.

9. (Currently Amended) The microswitch Microswitch according to claim 1, wherein the electrostatic holding means of the membrane comprise at least one electrode.